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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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UCC Building—P. O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 272

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD  
HELENA, MONTANA

MAY, 1966

## April Job Upswing Adds 6,800 to Industry Payrolls

**Job Upswing Sets Record**—Seasonal employment expansion in Montana was in full motion during April. Job expansion occurred on a variety of industry fronts despite some bad weather in a few areas during the month. Employment estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found 181,200 non-farm wage earners on payrolls at mid-month. This is an unusually high figure for this time of the year and presages an employment peak in non-farm industries of 190,000 or more later this year. This April's non-farm employment total exceeded the same month last year by 7,000 workers, and represented an increase of 6,800 from March 1966. It was the highest April industrial employment total on record, and marked the fourth month this year of record setting employment.

**Gains Show In Most Groups**—All major industry groups but two exhibited employment gains over March totals. Construction payrolls rose to 12,200, after an increase of 3,600 workers from March, as work began in earnest on a wide variety of building and heavy construction. Employment in various government activities advanced by 1,300, with 900 more on state and local payrolls and another 400 at the federal level. The seasonal employment upswing was evident on main street with 1,100 more workers on April payrolls of trade firms. Retail trade added 900 workers while the gain in wholesale firms was 200. Increased payrolls at

hotels, motels, etc in preparation for a heavy tourist season accounted for most of the 400 employment advance in the service industry group. With the exception of lumbering, which dropped 100 from March, employment gains in other manufacturing marked up a total gain of 200 for the industry as a whole. Payrolls of the transportation, communications, and utilities groups was also up 200 from March. Employment in mining, at 7,500, and in finance, insurance, and real estate firms, at 7,000, remained unchanged from the March total.

**Worker Shortages Developing**—Worker shortages in both industry and agriculture will become more pronounced as the work season advances. Already the food industry is hard pressed to find enough experienced cooks and waitresses; sales clerks are in short supply in most major cities; miners, student miners, and journeymen craftsmen are needed for Butte's mining operations; the stepped up pace in building projects left a shortage of carpenters; and the demand for woods, mill workers, and heavy equipment operators for the lumber industry exceeds the supply of available, experienced workers in these classifications. Continuing shortages of experienced farm and ranch hands persists in many areas. In-migration of transient farm labor does not match the past few years.

**Big Schedule of Construction**—Construction will be a potent force in the summer labor market picture. Major projects on the agenda include start of work on Libby Dam, a steam powered

electricity generating plant at Billings, renovation work at the Anaconda smelter, expansion of production facilities at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant, a \$4 million Billings oil refinery expansion, and new super markets, motels, educational buildings and highway projects throughout the state, among others. More than 800 are now employed at missile installations locations in north central Montana. Work on Yellowstone Dam is winding up with a work force of 325.

**Jobseekers Down 14% From Year Ago**—The number of workers registered for jobs at the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service totaled 13,566 as April ended. This was 2,238 fewer than the same month a year ago. In the April count were more than 4,300 women. During the next two months thousands of high school and college students will temporarily swell the labor supply as they search for summer employment. Some will go into jobs in construction, trade, and service, and agriculture. Others may not be so fortunate for the number of applicants will exceed the summer job openings.

**Job Placements Exceed Last Year**—Workers placed on industrial jobs by local employment offices totaled 3,283 this April, against 2,878 a year ago, a 14% increase. Job orders listed by industry employers were up nearly 24% from last year for a total of 4,176. The 1,743 workers placed on farm and ranch jobs exceeded the April, 1965 total by 21%.

## LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Mar. 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. 1966	Feb. 1966	Mar. 1965
<b>All Manufacturing</b> .....	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.9	3.2	3.1	2.1	1.7	1.5	.7	.6	.6
Durable Goods .....	4.7	3.3	4.6	3.7	2.7	3.5	5.2	3.5	4.3	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.0	.4	.9
Primary Metal .....	4.1	2.7	6.1	3.3	2.0	3.8	4.5	3.3	3.4	2.5	1.6	.8	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods .....	2.1	3.7	1.8	1.6	3.0	1.6	1.3	2.6	1.1	.9	1.2	.6	.2	1.1	.2
<b>All Mining</b> .....	6.3	6.8	6.8	3.1	3.2	2.2	5.5	5.7	6.1	2.8	2.6	3.0	.2	1.6	1.0
Metal Mining .....	6.7	8.6	5.0	2.9	3.5	.7	6.6	4.4	6.9	3.2	2.6	3.2	*	*	.5

\* Less than .05

[illegible]

## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for April

**MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry**—Labor market activity showed little change from prior month. Cold weather and rain had some effect on outdoor work. Good agenda of highway work in area will be more active next month. Passive trends in trade and service firms. Farm labor demand exceeded supply of experienced workers.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—Economic activity holding to good trends set earlier. Industry job placements 13% ahead of last year with most of the gain recorded in trade establishments. Logging making slow recovery but most mills at good capacity. Farm labor demand at good seasonal pace.

**POLSON**—Unemployment claims drop sharply as seasonal job upswing continues in most industries. Most lumber mills added more workers; logging hires starting to increase. Trade, service, and farm job openings up weekly.

**SHELBY**—Bad weather slowed some outdoor work during the month. Job placement activity starting to edge up slowly in construction, trade, and service firms. Shortage of farm hands and bad weather reduced farm job placement totals.

**SIDNEY**—Area economy presents fairly optimistic outlook despite lack of major construction projects. No action yet on announced plans for construction of \$450,000 livestock sales yard. Construction workers taking farm jobs for present. High school students registering for farm work for summer season.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—Good weather created more jobs for logging and sawmill workers. Hiring for forest service projects also up seasonally. Shortages of logging industry workers expected to develop later in season. Construction on slow side with no major projects in view.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—Construction in three county areas down from last year. Current work includes three highway projects, hospital addition, and street surfacing. Steady activity in oil fields with average of three rigs in operation but little new hiring. Good summer schedule of hiring main street trade and service firms. Good farm labor demand.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Apr. 1966 (2)	Mar. 1966 (3)	Apr. 1965	Mar. '66 to Apr. '66	Apr. '66 Against Apr. '65
<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>181,200</b>	<b>174,400</b>	<b>174,200</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>800</b>
Durable goods	13,600	13,500	12,900	100	700
Lumber and timber products	8,000	8,100	7,700	—100	300
Primary metals	3,700	3,700	3,500	00	200
Other (4)	1,900	1,700	1,700	200	200
Nondurable goods	7,600	7,500	7,500	100	100
Food and kindred products	3,800	3,800	3,800	00	00
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,800	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	1,000	900	900	100	100
<b>Mining</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>500</b>
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,400	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,100	900	00	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,500	1,700	00	—200
<b>Contract Construction</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Contractors, building construction	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,000	1,000
Contractors, other than building	4,900	2,600	4,800	2,300	100
Contractors, special trade	3,700	3,400	3,400	300	300
<b>Transportation and utilities</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>00</b>
Interstate railroads	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	—100
Transportation except railroads	3,900	3,900	3,900	00	00
Utilities including communication	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100
<b>Trade</b>	<b>42,800</b>	<b>41,700</b>	<b>41,600</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Wholesale trade	9,100	8,900	8,700	200	400
Retail trade	33,700	32,800	32,900	900	800
General merchandise and apparel	6,100	5,900	6,200	200	—100
Food stores	6,100	6,100	5,200	00	900
Eating and drinking establishments	8,600	8,000	8,400	600	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,800	6,700	6,900	100	—100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,100	6,200	00	—100
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>00</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,900	2,600	3,000	300	—100
Personal services	1,900	1,900	2,100	00	—200
Other (6)	20,000	19,900	19,700	100	300
<b>Government</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Federal	11,700	11,300	11,300	400	400
State and local	36,800	35,900	34,100	900	2,700
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County)</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,100	00	100
Contract construction	1,800	1,700	2,000	100	—200
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,700	5,600	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,400	3,400	3,500	00	—100
Government	4,400	4,400	4,100	00	300
<b>Billings Area (Yellowstone County)</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>—100</b>
Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,600	00	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,600	1,500	100	200
Transportation and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,400	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,500	7,300	200	—100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,500	00	—100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,500	4,500	00	00
Government	3,900	3,900	4,000	00	—100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 792 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,161 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN APRIL 1966 AND APRIL 1965

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Apr. 1966		Apr. 1965		Apr. 1966		Apr. 1965		Apr. 1966				Apr. 1965				Wk. 4-29	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1966	1965
Anaconda	164	58	134	18	202	52	399	61	130	21	151	64	129	3	132	29	71	210
Billings	486	160	727	124	2,199	521	2,796	569	519	346	865	294	605	311	916	293	833	1,050
Bozeman	283	77	253	27	349	111	451	76	153	77	230	54	126	65	191	35	173	198
Butte	403	98	365	61	1,024	198	1,383	215	96	21	117	52	107	19	126	20	356	556
Cut Bank	48	10	56	14	351	88	378	117	28	49	77	33	52	35	87	45	139	135
Dillon	47	15	71	24	65	11	138	19	37	97	134	46	28	153	181	56	58	81
Glasgow	79	20	45	3	166	14	364	28	84	56	140	29	60	21	81	4	110	226
Glendive	46	2	52	4	168	12	254	27	25	72	97	9	24	50	74	9	62	135
Great Falls	729	209	464	60	1,303	319	1,633	335	542	201	743	272	401	139	540	137	543	705
Hamilton	63	29	93	17	160	28	341	83	50	20	70	27	57	34	91	17	99	191
Havre	51	6	76	1	129	30	282	73	66	109	175	74	50	52	102	31	77	208
Helena	238	62	207	23	301	79	393	78	149	70	219	83	175	76	251	64	199	359
Kalispell	307	93	236	36	1,741	634	1,705	465	211	40	251	66	154	25	179	45	903	1,081
Lewistown	76	25	64	9	123	37	235	52	74	109	183	40	49	93	142	28	95	146
Livingston	70	7	80	8	248	49	331	49	66	27	93	31	61	48	109	18	111	185
Miles City	63	12	73	2	159	22	185	43	52	65	117	18	84	40	124	25	80	130
Missoula	574	167	497	82	1,232	361	1,411	351	282	40	322	98	260	57	317	58	454	656
Polson	60	16	74	15	222	79	357	99	60	15	75	28	37	45	82	28	115	220
Shelby	59	12	65	9	168	47	187	40	40	53	93	31	36	39	75	19	70	100
Stdney	62	6	55	8	142	21	163	13	35	46	81	22	47	40	87	18	82	112
Thom. Falls	56	8	64	9	246	71	257	66	56	19	75	23	51	6	57	12	123	165
Wolf Point	54	13	54	8	206	60	172	22	40	34	74	19	24	15	39	8	116	125
Billings YOC**	316	12	161		873	30	353		162	11	173	8	41		41			
TOTALS	4,334	1,117	3,966	562	11,777	2,874	14,148	2,881	2,957	1,598	4,555	1,421	2,658	1,366	4,024	999	4,869	6,974

\*Includes 329 claims of the Fed. UC Program 696 same a year ago. \*\*Youth Opportunity Center.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. (1) 1966	Mar. (2) 1966	Apr. 1965	Apr. (1) 1966	Mar. (2) 1966	Apr. 1965	Apr. (1) 1966	Mar. (2) 1966	Apr. 1965
All Manufacturing	124.93	121.55	111.08	44.3	42.8	40.1	2.82	2.84	2.77
Durable Goods	127.14	123.20	107.60	46.4	44.8	40.3	2.74	2.75	2.67
Primary Metals	116.35	116.93	113.15	40.4	40.6	39.7	2.88	2.88	2.85
Nondurable Goods	120.29	118.20	120.29	39.7	38.5	40.5	3.03	3.07	2.97
Food and Kindred Products	104.80	101.23	107.44	40.0	38.2	42.3	2.62	2.65	2.54
All Mining	120.74	120.89	113.49	38.7	38.5	37.8	3.12	3.14	3.00
Metal Mining	116.87	116.87	110.23	37.7	37.7	36.5	3.10	3.10	3.02
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	112.27	115.25	114.77	37.8	39.2	40.7	2.97	2.94	2.82

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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